

RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MINUTES OF Monday, February 23, 2015

Board Members Present: Mayor Scott Avedisian; Jerome Williams; Director Michael Lewis; Stephen Durkee; Margaret Holland McDuff; Peter Ginaitt and Mark Susa

Absent: Maureen Martin

Also Present: Raymond Studley, CEO; Benjamin Salzillo, In-House Legal; Thomas Carlotto, Outside Counsel; Marie DiToro, Recording Secretary; and other members of RIPTA's staff, and members of the public whose names are on the sign-in sheet

Agenda Item 1: **Board Approval of the February 5, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

Mayor Avedisian calls the Monday, February 23, 2015 Board of Directors meeting to order.

The first item of business is the approval of the February 5, 2015 Board meeting minutes, originally scheduled for January 26, 2015, which were mailed out to all the Board members.

Mr. Ginaitt makes a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Director Lewis seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 2: **Public Comment**

(Board members take public comments under advisement, but do not respond except for clarifications. Members may follow-up on public comments in writing post-meeting as permitted by applicable law.)

Mayor Avedisian stated that starting with last month's meeting the Board and Mr. Studley have responded to public comment in writing. Letters from the last meeting were mailed out this past Friday. They will continue to do this going forward.

Mayor Avedisian welcomes Mr. Cute to speak.

Mr. Cute states that he will be assuming the role of the President/Business Agent for the 618 and 618A union. He would like to thank Paul Harrington publically for promoting mass transit in the State and for working closely with the Board. Mr. Cute plans to follow Mr. Harrington's legacy with good fellowship and good will to put the best foot forward at RIPTA.

Mr. Cute would like to commend Mr. Studley and staff at RIPTA for being able to run service when MBTA did not. Maintenance, bus operators, street supervision and managers kept this business running. He thanks the Board for their time.

With no further comments, Mayor Avedisian moves on to the CEO Report.

Agenda Item 3: CEO Report

Mr. Studley states that in the CEO Report, on the first page, expenses are \$1.65 million under budget. RIPTA is working diligently on being fiscally responsible, however if you turn to the graphs, specifically the Rite Care sales, RIPTA is still losing about \$480,000 a month. RIPTA cannot continue to carry this over. RIPTA has reviewed the Logisticare contract per the request from OHHS and have sent Secretary Roberts proposed changes to this contract.

Mayor Avedisian states that the conversations with Secretary Roberts have gone very well and it seems as though both agencies are trying to work together on this going forward.

Mr. Studley states that there are a few items left to be completed for the Kennedy Plaza project; however, due to the weather these will not be completed until the spring.

Mr. Studley states that there is a scheduled conference call with Xerox tomorrow to work through more disagreements; however, RIPTA will remain aggressive to get this finalized.

Mr. Studley states the overall ridership is down system wide, including the R-Line and he thinks that is a combination of facts; winter, gas prices and not having Kennedy Plaza up and running for 6 months.

The average trip time on the R-Line is down 18% due to the TSP (Traffic Signal Prioritization). The two R-Line routes, 99 and 11 carry about 20-25% of the ridership and that is important for efficiency of the system, and it shows that the TSP is working. That gives Mr. Studley and his staff the foundation to go forward and look at other key corridors to implement TSP on.

Mr. Williams asks if the decreased percentage in trip time was what RIPTA estimated and Mr. Nordin responds that it is actually higher than anticipated. Mr. Nordin states that the last part of the project is still under construction and will not be complete until August. Mr. Durkee asks where that is and Mr. Nordin responds that it is on Broad Street, between Montgomery and Adelaide and he believes this area is where they will see the greatest benefit. This should be finished in August.

Mr. Studley states that there was a kick off meeting with the consultants last Friday for the Fare Study.

Mr. Studley states that this is Director Lewis' last meeting on the Board of Directors and he would like to personally thank him. RIPTA and RIDOT have a great partnership; with maintenance of vehicles, capital projects and day-to-day functions of both agencies and that is a credit to his leadership. Mr. Studley thanks Director Lewis again.

Director Lewis would like to take this opportunity to introduce the new Director of DOT, Peter Alviti and the Deputy Director of DOT, Peter Garino. Director Lewis welcomes both of them and states that the relationship with RIPTA is very important. He and Mr. Garino have already had discussions this past week about how RIPTA and RIDOT need to work together seamlessly because it is one transportation system. The better everyone works together the better the system is. Director Lewis states that it is a great crew to work with. Mr. Alviti responds that he is looking forward to it.

Mayor Avedisian states that prior to Director Lewis's role here on the RIPTA Board of Directors, he has seen his dedication and hard work in both the Warwick train station project and the accelerated completion of the Apponaug Bypass. His service on the RIPTA Board of Directors has resulted in this agency drastically improving from 2.5 years ago. It is a real multi-modal and efficient system and it was due to Director Lewis's thought process, support and dedication in fostering the R-Line and many other programs here at RIPTA. Mayor Avedisian would like to say a great big thank you on behalf of the Board of Directors and present Director Lewis a small token of appreciation from the Board. Mayor Avedisian presents a plaque to Director Lewis.

Mr. Williams states that he will miss Director Lewis in the tremendous leadership role he has occupied at DOT. It is one of the hardest departments to manager and he wishes him well. Director Lewis's leadership, ability to achieve results in such a collaborative fashion is incredible and he will be missed by the State of Rhode Island. Mr. Williams will miss him as his friend as well. Director Lewis was a real asset to the State and he thanks him for all his efforts here at RIPTA and the State of Rhode Island.

Agenda Item 4: **Commercial Property Insurance Policy**

Mr. Stanziale states that he is requesting the authority to purchase a commercial property policy with Chubb Insurance Company in the amount of \$148,401.

Mayor Avedisian states that over the past couple of months they have been looking into the liability insurance and doing something more than what RIPTA currently has in place. If there are any suggestions please let Mr. Salzillo or Mr. Studley know.

Mr. Stanziale states that currently they are working on getting a quote for the excess policy with Transit Re; it is a corporation of different transit agencies throughout the country that pool their resources together. Mr. Salzillo states he will speak more on this during Executive Session.

Mr. Williams makes a motion to obtain Commercial Property Insurance Policy with Chubb Insurance. Mr. Durkee seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 5: **RFP 15-09 Workers Compensation Third Party Administrative Services**

Mr. Salzillo states that RIPTA currently self-insures all employees for workers compensation losses; however, RIPTA retains an outside firm to act as an administrator to handle all the paperwork, medical records, and they have their own medical staff. This is a contract to retain the firm to perform this service. Last year, RIPTA paid approximately \$90,000 for this service and are grateful to have received a bid at a substantially lower cost.

Ms. Holland McDuff asks if this is the same scope of work, and Mr. Salzillo responds yes it is.

Mr. Williams asks if there were only two bidders and Mr. Salzillo responds that there were three but the third one would not provide a flat rate.

Mr. Williams asks what Beacon's rate was and Mr. Salzillo responds it was \$120,000.

Mr. Durkee makes a motion to approve. Mr. Ginaitt seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 6: Emergency Tank Repair

Mr. Vignale states that they were working on preventative maintenance in this building on the oil water separator tanks. There are two located in this building. They were installed approximately 1992. Both are single wall steel tanks which is obsolete technology at this point. While the tanks were open they found 3 golf ball size holes at the bottom of the tank. Thankfully, it is a non-regulated tank and the way it is set up oil floats and there is water at the bottom so the environmental contamination should be minimum and they do not think any oil has contaminated the earth. Given the condition of the tank they could run into future issues if this is not handled immediately.

The new tanks are fiberglass, double walled with leak detection. Mr. Vignale states that they went to a MPA vendor to quote the service. The amount is \$88,000 to remove the old tanks, install new ones and put down new concrete slab. It also includes, engineering reports and any permits that need to be pulled; however, it does not include environmental contamination in the event that has happened.

Mr. McGrane states that it is 80% funded through grant 90X058 Building Rehab, which is within the scope of the grant. The balance is from RIPTA's Operating Fund.

There is an MPA for emergency hazardous waste response and this falls within that scope of work perfectly.

Mr. Vignale feels comfortable with this company and it will save time and prevent delaying the project by going out to bid themselves.

Mr. Ginaitt states that he agrees that he would not want to delay this; however, is there anyway to evaluate this MPA verses going to a competitive market.

Mr. McGrane responds that he compared the hourly wages they quoted to other bids and Newton B Washburn is in the same range as other companies. He feels strongly that this is not worth the delay of going out to bid.

Mr. Vignale states that three quotes were pulled and based on disposal rates and the material handling Newton B Washburn beat the competition by 50%.

Director Lewis asks if this is isolated to this facility and have other tanks been inspected and Mr. Vignale responds that all other tanks are double walled tanks and are of modern technology.

Mr. Durkee asks if this includes any money for environmental testing, that needs to be done and Mr. Vignale responds that it does include the engineering reports and the environmental testing is included in that report, however the remediation is not.

Director Lewis makes a motion to award the contract to Newton B Washburn as presented today. Mr. Durkee seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Agenda Item 7: Executive Session: Executive Session to consider, discuss and act upon such matters as may be closed to the public pursuant to R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-46-5(a)(2) regarding collective bargaining and litigation.

Mayor Avedisian asked for a motion to convene to Executive Session.

Mr. Williams reads the law to go to Executive Session and made the motion. Mr. Ginaitt seconds the motion and a roll call vote was taken. The motion to convene into Executive Session passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 8: Adjournment

Mayor Avedisian asks for a motion to seal the Executive Session minutes. Mr. Ginaitt makes a motion to seal the minutes from Executive Session. Ms. Holland McDuff seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Mr. Williams makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Holland McDuff seconds the motion and it passes unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie DiToro
Recording Secretary